

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3071

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 17347

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: INDO-US RELATIONS: MRS. GANDHI'S ALLEGATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 17346

1. P.N. DHAR HAD ALREADY ASKED ME TO COME AROUND TO SEE HIM THIS MORNING WHEN I READ MRS. GANDHI'S LATEST ALLEGATIONS AT THE CONGRESS PARTY MEETINGS YESTERDAY (BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY). SHE IMPLIED IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT WAYS THAT THE US WAS INTERFERING AGAINST HER IN INDIA. DHAR HAD ASKED ME TO BE COMPLETELY CANDID, AND I WAS. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS DEEPLY DISTURBED AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENTS. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT SHE FELT SHE NEEDED AN EXTERNAL ENEMY AND WE WERE THE VICTIM.

2. I REMINDED HIM THAT I HAD ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT WE WERE NOT INTERFERING IN ANY MANNER IN INDIA'S AFFAIRS AND THAT SHE OBVIOUSLY DID NOT BELIEVE ME AND THAT SERIOUSLY REFLECTED ON MY INTEGRITY AND MY ABILITY TO REPRESENT MY GOVERNMENT. I SAID THAT I WAS AWARE SHE WAS USING THE EMERGENCY TO STOP THE DRIFT TO THE LEFT BUT THAT THE US WAS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE USED AS A VICTIM TO PLACATE THE CPI AND OTHER RADICAL ELEMENTS AND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHARGES WOULD UNLEASH ANOTHER ROUND OF IRRESPONSIBLE CHARGES BY THOSE HOSTILE TO THE US.

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EM I WENT ON TO STATE THAT I SAW NO WAY THAT ANY PROGRESS

COULD BE MADE BY THE JOINT COMMISSIONS OR ANY OTHER CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS AS LONG AS THIS DISTRUST EXISTED; AND I FURTHER ASKED HIM TO TELL ME WHY THE US SHOULD EXERT ANY EFFORT TO HELP INDIA SOLVE ITS MANY PROBLEMS AND THAT I WOULD RECOMMEND TO MY GOVERNMENT THAT ALL COOPERATIVE EFFORTS BE SLOWED DOWN UNTIL THIS POINT WAS SETTLED.

4. DHAR WAS SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK BY THE FORCE OF MY FEELINGS AND JOICULARLY SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE SUGGESTED THE MEETING HAD HE KNOWN WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. HE SAID HE HAD ONLY DESIRED TO FOLLOW UP ON THE FRIENDLY TALK IN PARIS. HE THEN REVIEWED SOME OF HIS TALKS WITH MOYNIHAN. HE SAID HE HAD COMPLAINED TO MOYNIHAN CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF ONE OF OUR PEOPLE IN CALCUTTA WHO WAS CREATING DISSENT BY VISITING MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION. HE ALSO CITED HOSTILE PRESS ARTICLES WRITTEN ABOUT THE EMERGENCY AND BANGLADESH BY LOU SIMONS. HE ALSO ASKED ME TO OBSERVE THE GO'S CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE TOWARD FREE ENTERPRISE AND SAID IT WAS CAUSING CONCERN TO THE RADICAL LEFT.

5. I REPLIED THAT I DOUBTED THAT ANY OF OUR PEOPLE EVER OPERATED AS PROVOCATORS AND WE WERE TALKED ABOUT HERE AND NOW. I ALSO ASSURED HIM THAT WE HAD NO REASON TO INFER THAT INDIA WAS AGITATING IN BANGLADESH AND WE RESENTED THE INFERENCE THAT WE WERE INVOLVED IN MUJIB'S DEATH. I FURTHER STATED THAT WE COULD NOT CONTROL THE WRITINGS OF CORRESPONDENTS OR STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THAT THIS SEEMED TO BE THE STRIKING POINT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND MEA. IT WAS OBIOUS THEY (THE PRIME MINISTER AND MEA) THOUGHT THEY COULD CHANGE THIS BY PUBLIC ATTACKS ON THE US BUT THEY WERE WRONG AND ONLY SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING THE MATTER BEYOND REPAIR.

6. I TOLD HIM THAT A DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE AS TO WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP INDIA DESIRED WITH THE UNITED STATES AND ASSURED HIM THAT BUSINESS AS USUAL WAS IMPOSSIBLE AS LONG AS WE WERE REFERRED TO AS THE "DARK FORCES" WORKING WITHIN AND WITHOUT INDIAN TO UNDERMINE THE GOVERNMENT. I REMINDED HIM THAT ON ONE HAND INDIA REQUESTED
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HELP IN TRADE, IN TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE, IN TOURISM, IN EXTENDING SITE AND IN PL480 ASSISTANCE AND THAT ALL WE GOT IN RETIRN WAS ABUSE AND A SURE VOICE AND VOTE AGAINST US IN ANY INTERNATIONAL FORUM.

7. HE SUGGESTED THAT HE WAS ON OUR SIDE AND WAS USING WHAT INFLUENCE HE HAD TO AVOID SITUATIONS SUCH AS THE ONE AT PRESENT; HE ALSO EVIDENCED THE TYPICAL

INDIAN ATTITUDE THAT US ASSISTANCE WOULD CONTINUE REGARDLESS OF WHAT WAS SAID OR DONE BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

8. THE MEETING CONCLUDED BY HIS SUGGESTION THAT WE COOL OFF FOR A WEEK AND MEET AGAIN. I AGREED AND WE PARTED WITH A FRIENDLY HANDSHAKE, BUT I WARNED HIM THAT IF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS CAUSED A NATIONAL OUTBURST AGAINST US IN THE CENSORED PRESS IT WOULD MAKE PRODUCTIVE TALKS DIFFICULT.

9. I REQUEST THAT THIS MESSAGE BE READ BY MR. SISCO.
SAXBE

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